

77-1706/A

Washington, D. C. 20505

8 OCT 1977

Hanford D. Stafford, Executive Director
National Consortium for Black Professional Development
1816 Norris Place
Louisville, Kentucky 40205

Dear Mr. Stafford:

Referent to your request, by letter dated 27 June 1977, for CIA funding of a Science and Engineering Newsletter for black students in grades 4 through 8, I regret to inform you that the CIA cannot participate in your project for legal reasons.

The proposal that you made to CIA contains elements that would clearly constitute a grant if funded. The purchase of a printing machine and the payment of a year's salary go far beyond reimbursement for resources expended in performance of the services offered. The Agency's legal authorities do not extend to making a grant under the circumstances described in your proposal. Also, the CIA does not have authority comparable to that of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to pay for the publication of articles favorable to CIA in a private publication, as is being proposed in this case.

Another matter to be considered is the risk involved for your organization and mine from a public affairs standpoint. Public disclosure that CIA is providing financial support to a publication--any publication--for the young in the United States, regrettably, could subject to question the motives of the publisher and the Agency. The publication itself could become controversial and discredited.

The CIA continues to actively seek and recruit minorities in all skills and disciplines needed by the Agency. In this effort we have, during the past two years, participated as exhibitors at the Annual Conference of the National Consortium for Black Professional Development and other national minority conferences. We hope that we might cooperate with your organization's ability to refer the resumes of qualified black scientists and engineers.

P-1.2

Thank you for your interest in seeking CIA assistance for your project, and please feel free to continue the discussions you have begun with Mr. Omega Ware, our Director of Equal Employment Opportunity.

Sincerely,

/s/John F. Blake

John F. Blake
Acting Deputy Director

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